

Beyond political and philosophical notions, the decision to exclude Taiwan from international organizations has very real consequences. In the spring of 2003, for example, Taiwan was affected by the SARS epidemic. Because Taiwan is barred from membership in the United Nations, the World Health Organization's response to Taiwan's SARS outbreak was substandard and late. As a result, 37 people lost their lives. In 1998 an enterovirus epidemic struck Taiwan, infecting more than a million people, hospitalizing hundreds, causing 80 deaths and resulting in over \$1 billion in economic losses. In all of these cases, because the WHO was forced to spend its time and resources finding "indirect ways" to provide assistance to Taiwan, the response suffered. And these shortcomings cut both ways. Because of the ROC's exclusion from the international community, Taiwan cannot share its health-related experiences, manpower and other resources with the rest of the world.

Support for Taiwan's membership in the U.N. ought to be a no brainer. As a friend and ally, the United States should stand up for Taiwan. We must make it clear to others that we believe it is unfair to exclude Taiwan from the world community, and we must also tell the authorities in Beijing that Taiwan's membership in the United Nations poses no threat to them, or the achievement of a peaceful and equitable solution to the cross-straits situation.

Mr. Speaker, the ROC's membership in the U.N. will be beneficial to the people of Taiwan, to the United States, and to the world. I urge support for Taiwan's campaign to rejoin the United Nations.

HONORING JOAN LYNCH ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, when I was in fourth grade, my family moved back to Galeton, CO. Soon after starting school, I met a little girl named Cynthia Lynch. We quickly became best friends, and I grew to love her family as my own. I have always had a special place in my heart for her dear mother, Joan. Today, with love and gratitude, I honor Joan on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

Joan Lynch was born on October 12, 1924, in Greeley, CO, and is the third of five children. There was some confusion about her name. She was raised on the Colorado prairie by William and Kathryn Nelson who farmed northeast of Ault. In the depression and dust-bowl days of the 1930s, her family temporarily left the prairie to find work but did eventually return to the homestead her father had settled in 1915. She has always considered the prairie her home.

She has always had a passion for books and learning, especially history. She speaks of her education in the one-room school at "North Victor" as her favorite school experience. Her sisters and she walked a mile and a half to and from school each day, across an open prairie. She later graduated from Central City Colorado High School in 1942, and attended the Teacher's College in Greeley.

Joan and "Corky" Lynch, were married in 1946 and lived on the east coast while he was

stationed there in the Navy. I've seen pictures of them in those early days. What a good looking couple. They returned to Colorado in 1947 and farmed in the Milliken area before moving in 1956 to the ranch where Joan continues to live today, northeast of Ault, and only a few miles from the homestead where she grew up. As teenagers, Cindy and I would always giggle and be slightly embarrassed when Corky would leave for work and give Joan a big kiss on his way out of the house. Really, though, we loved it.

Corky passed away in 1999 from cancer. He and Joan celebrated 53 years together. I am so thankful I was able to go and see him before he passed away. I told him how much I appreciated all he and Joan had done for me growing up. We both cried. The older he got, the more tender-hearted he became. He was 75 years old when he passed away.

I love Joan and I will never forget what she has done for me. As a young girl, she gave me lunch money when I needed it, and she put up with my frequent visits to spend the night. That love and support helped me get through the tough times and I will always hold that love in my heart. The way she has lived life has been a constant inspiration to me and her Christian example has always been present for all of us to see. May God bless her today as her family and friends celebrate her birthday. I love her dearly and cherish her as a second mother to me. I am pleased to honor a precious lady on this occasion of her 80th birthday.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5025) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation and Treasury, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Oxley-Frank amendment that would strike section 216 from the Transportation Appropriations bill.

Last July, I stood on this floor and said that the Hostettler amendment to the Foreign Relation Authorization Act was "a thinly veiled attempt to end something called the matricula consular." Well, here we are a year later and there is no longer a pretense as to what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are trying to accomplish.

During consideration at the Appropriations Subcommittee level, Representative CULBERSON offered an amendment that prohibits the Department of the Treasury from implementing regulations which allow Mexico's matricula consular card to be used as a form of identification when opening a bank account. This amendment was retained at the full committee even though Treasury Secretary Snow wrote in July to the chairman requesting that this specific provision be removed.

Over and over again, select Members on the other side of the aisle have shown their

true feelings about issues of the immigrant communities, and often, specifically the Hispanic community. Section 216 is no exception since it targets Mexican nationals. Why do I say this? Because only the matricula consular, out of all the identity documents in the United States, would be explicitly banned by this section of the bill.

Contrary to what the supporters of section 216 contend, Mexico and other foreign governments have been issuing consular identification cards to foreign nationals in the United States precisely following the guidelines established by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

Representative CULBERSON implies that it is impossible to verify the true identity of a person who holds a matricula consular card because they can be obtained fraudulently. This is equally as true of other ID cards as with U.S. driver's licenses. In fact, 7 of the 19 terrorist hijackers of September 11 were known to have illegally obtained Virginia's drivers licenses. Yet this provision would ban only the matricula consular, which has been issued by the Embassy of Mexico for over 132 years.

Let's talk about what this whole debate is really about. It is about our country's public safety and national security, our homeland security, and our financial security.

Use of the Mexican consular identification card improves our Nation's public safety and national security because it provides a reliable and accurate method to identify Mexican nationals. Today, approximately 1,100 police departments accept the matricula consular to identify suspects, witnesses, and people who report crimes and suspicious activity.

Use of the Mexican consular identification card improves our Nation's homeland security. It combats the financing of international terrorism and money laundering by ensuring that U.S. financial institutions have accurate and reliable information on their clients.

And use of the matricula consular improves our nation's financial security and economy and prevents people from sending money illegally across the border. With this card, Mexican workers in the United States can send money legally using the banking system, which functions within federal law. Today, approximately 350 financial institutions accept the card as a valid form of identification.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is supported by:

The Bush White House in a Statement of Administration Policy dated today;

The Department of Treasury in a letter from Secretary Snow dated yesterday;

The Department of Justice, including the FBI;

A large part of the financial services sector: The American Bankers Association; America's Community Bankers; the Bankers' Association for Finance and Trade; the National Association of Federal Credit Unions; the Credit Union National Association; the Financial Services Roundtable; the Independent Community Bankers of America; the Securities Industry Association;

The National Council of La Raza;

The Mexican American Legal Defense Educational Fund; and

The National Immigration Law Center.

Finally, over 80 percent of the 34,000 comments received on the actual Treasury Department rulemaking under Section 326 of the USA PATRIOT Act agreed with the original regulations.